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14 *LinkedIn Corporation*

15 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
16 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
17 SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

18 3taps, Inc.,  
19 Plaintiff,  
20  
21 vs.  
22 LinkedIn Corporation,  
23 Defendant.

Case No. 18-cv-00855-EMC

**JOINT CASE MANAGEMENT  
STATEMENT**

Judge: Hon. Edward M. Chen  
Hearing Date: July 15, 2021  
Time: 10:30 a.m.  
Trial Date: None Set

1  
2 Plaintiff 3Taps, Inc. (“3taps”) and Defendant LinkedIn Corporation (“LinkedIn”) jointly  
3 submit this Joint Case Management Statement pursuant to the Court’s June 12, 2021 Order (ECF  
4 47).

5 **1. Jurisdiction and Service**

6 The parties agree that the Court has federal question jurisdiction over 3Taps claim for  
7 declaratory judgement of its rights under the CFAA because it is a federal statute. The parties  
8 agree that personal jurisdiction and venue are proper in the Northern District of California. No  
9 parties remain to be served.

10 **2. Facts**

11 **(a) *3Taps Statement***

12 LinkedIn has wrongfully and illegally threatened to block and/or take unlawful action to  
13 prevent 3taps from accessing publicly available data in contravention of this Court’s rulings in  
14 *hiQ Labs, Inc. v. LinkedIn Corporation*. As that order has been confirmed by the Ninth Circuit,  
15 LinkedIn’s continued obstruction of lawful activities is untenable.

16 **b. *LinkedIn’s Statement***

17 LinkedIn’s mission is to connect the world’s professionals to make them more productive  
18 and successful. Through its platform, LinkedIn allows its members to create, manage and post  
19 their professional histories and interests online. At the heart of LinkedIn’s platform are its  
20 members, whose LinkedIn profiles serve as their professional online identities. Since its founding  
21 in 2002, LinkedIn has invested significant time, labor, skill, and resources (in the billions of  
22 dollars) developing its platform, which is available for free and provides value to hundreds of  
23 millions of users around the world. LinkedIn’s investment in the technical aspects of its platform  
24 includes not only computer hardware, software, and internet bandwidth, but an array of  
25 technological safeguards designed to protect platform integrity—both the technical infrastructure  
26 of the platform and the information residing on it. Access to LinkedIn’s platform requires  
27 authorization. Such access control is the only way that LinkedIn can do its part to ensure the  
28

1 information security and privacy of its members. LinkedIn's technical defenses currently block  
2 hundreds of millions of requests per day to access guest profiles.

3 3taps claims that it intends to use automated software—known as “bots”—to access  
4 LinkedIn's computers to scrape information from them, without authorization from LinkedIn and  
5 in violation of LinkedIn's terms of use. 3taps' complaint indicates that the genesis of this lawsuit  
6 was a desire by one of 3Taps “investors” to “tak[e] advantage of” the preliminary injunction order  
7 in *hiQ Labs, Inc. v. LinkedIn Corporation*. On January 16, 2018, 3taps “directed a letter to  
8 LinkedIn's counsel informing LinkedIn of 3taps' position that Judge Chen's decision in *hiQ Labs*  
9 *v. LinkedIn Corp* applied to 3taps, and that, as a result, 3taps intended to begin collecting and  
10 using publicly-available data from LinkedIn's website as hiQ had been doing.” In other words,  
11 like hiQ, 3taps wants to be able to scrape from LinkedIn and then use that scraped data for its  
12 own purposes, without any accountability to LinkedIn users. LinkedIn objected to 3taps plans  
13 and expressed its view that 3taps intended conduct would be contrary to law.

14 3taps' intended scraping of LinkedIn member data and product offerings interfere with  
15 and undermine the consent provided by LinkedIn members. Every social media user in this day  
16 and age must make informed choices about what to share and how to share it. LinkedIn is  
17 responsible for explaining to its members how their data will be used and it is accountable to  
18 them for misuse. 3taps is not. Members make their profiles *visible* to the public *on LinkedIn*,  
19 where they can alter or remove them—but that does not mean they consent to any and all  
20 companies harvesting their data, storing it permanently in databases, tracking their disclosures  
21 across time on one or many sites, and using the data for any purpose. 3taps is a data collector  
22 who has undertaken none of the obligations of information governance that are important to  
23 LinkedIn and its users.

24 ***Principal Factual Issues In Dispute.***

25 **3taps believes the following are the principal factual issues in dispute:**

- 26
- 27 • 3taps notes that this is not a fact intensive case, and effectively raises purely issues of  
28 law. The issues of law have already been resolved by the Court in *hiQ Labs, Inc. v.*

1        *LinkedIn Corporation*, and confirmed by the Ninth Circuit. 3taps notes that the factual  
 2        issues allegedly in dispute and identified by LinkedIn below are for the most part  
 3        either (i) arguments for why it believes that the law should be something other than  
 4        what this Court and the Ninth Circuit have already held, or (ii) red-herrings that should  
 5        have no bearing on the outcome of the matter.

6        **LinkedIn believes the following are the principal factual issues in dispute:**

- 7
- 8        • The methods that 3taps intends to use to gain access to LinkedIn’s computers and
  - 9        scrape data of LinkedIn’s members, including the use of automated software or “bots,”
  - 10       and whether these bots would bypass LinkedIn’s technical measures;
  - 11       • Whether the LinkedIn members whose data 3taps intends to scrape are aware that their
  - 12       data are being obtained by 3taps;
  - 13       • The risks created by 3taps and other data harvesters who avoid responsibility to social
  - 14       media users for misuse of their data;
  - 15       • The harm to LinkedIn and its members from unauthorized access by 3taps and other
  - 16       data harvesters seeking to circumvent LinkedIn’s information security controls.

17       **3.        Legal Issues**

18       The parties dispute a number of legal issues, including:

- 19
- 20       • Whether access to LinkedIn’s website in breach of the User Agreement violates either
  - 21       the “unauthorized access” and/or the “exceeds authorized access” provisions of the
  - 22       CFAA;
  - 23       • Whether 3taps is obliged to either refrain from using the LinkedIn website or be bound
  - 24       by the terms of the User Agreement in doing so;
  - 25       • Whether 3taps unauthorized access to LinkedIn’s website constitutes trespass to
  - 26       chattels;
  - 27       • Whether 3taps unauthorized collection of member data from LinkedIn’s website
  - 28       violates California Penal Code §502;

1                   **4.     Motions**

2  
3           LinkedIn has not yet responded to 3taps complaint. . Shortly after it issued its opinion in  
4 *Van Buren v. United States*, the Supreme Court granted LinkedIn’s petition in the *hiQ* matter,  
5 vacated the Ninth Circuit’s order affirming the district court’s injunction order, and remanded the  
6 case to the Ninth Circuit on June 14, 2021. On June 16, 2021, the Ninth Circuit ordered the  
7 parties to file supplemental briefs by July 9, 2021 addressing the effect of *Van Buren* on  
8 LinkedIn’s appeal in the *hiQ* matter. LinkedIn may elect to file a motion in response to 3taps  
9 complaint or may file a motion at a later date depending on the outcome of LinkedIn’s appeal in  
10 the *hiQ* matter . The parties anticipate there may be future discovery and dispositive motions, but  
11 do not have any additional motions to report at this time.

12                   **5.     Amendment of Pleadings**

13  
14           3taps has no current plans to amend or supplement its pleadings.

15           LinkedIn does not presently have a pleading on file.

16                   **6.     Evidence Preservation**

17  
18           Both 3taps and LinkedIn have reviewed the Guidelines Relating to the Discovery of  
19 Electronically Stored Information (“ESI Guidelines”), and met and conferred in May 2021  
20 pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f) regarding reasonable and proportionate steps taken to preserve  
21 evidence relevant to the issues reasonably evident in this action.

22                   **7.     Disclosures**

23  
24           The parties have exchanged initial disclosures.

25                   **8.     Discovery**

26  
27           No discovery has been served to date. The parties propose that discovery be stayed until  
28 ten (10) days after the appeal in the *hiQ* matter is resolved.

1 The parties agree that the Court should defer entering a full scheduling order until after  
2 LinkedIn's appeal in the *hiQ* matter is resolved by the Ninth Circuit.

3 **9. Class Actions**

4 This case is not a class action.

5 **10. Related Cases**

6  
7 This matter has been ordered related to *hiQ Labs, Inc. v. LinkedIn Corporation*. Both  
8 cases raise the question of whether LinkedIn can invoke the CFAA to prevent scraping of its  
9 website. The parties are not aware of any other related cases.

10 **11. Relief**

11 3taps seeks declaratory judgment that 3taps will not be in violation of the CFAA if  
12 it proceeds to scrape LinkedIn's webpage.

13 LinkedIn denies that 3taps is entitled to any relief. Although LinkedIn does not have a  
14 pleading on file, it anticipates seeking a declaration requiring 3taps to abide by LinkedIn's User  
15 Agreement and finding that any future effort by 3taps to scrape member data without  
16 authorization would violate the relevant federal and state laws.

17  
18 **12. Settlement and ADR**

19 The parties are contemplating next steps regarding settlement but have not yet come to  
20 any agreement. 3taps is open to mediation.

21  
22 **13. Consent to Magistrate Judge for All Purposes**

23 The parties did not consent to have a magistrate judge conduct all further proceedings  
24 including trial and entry of judgment. Currently, there is not a magistrate judge assigned to the  
25 matter.  
26  
27  
28

1           **14.    Other References**

2           The parties agree that this case is not suitable for reference to binding arbitration, a special  
3 master, or the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation.

4           **15.    Narrowing of Issues**

5           Informed by the outcome of LinkedIn's appeal in the *hiQ* matter, the parties will work  
6 together in good faith to develop suggestions to expedite the presentation of evidence at trial.

7  
8           **16.    Expedited Trial Procedure**

9           The parties agree that this case is not amenable to expedited trial.

10  
11          **17.    Scheduling**

12          The parties agree that they should defer submitting a proposed scheduling order until after  
13 LinkedIn's appeal in the *hiQ* matter is resolved by the Ninth Circuit.

14  
15          **18.    Trial**

16          Depending on which claims and defenses proceed to trial, LinkedIn estimates that trial  
17 could last between seven (7) and ten days (10). 3taps estimates trial could last between three (3)  
18 and seven (7) days. LinkedIn asserts that 3taps is not entitled to a jury trial on its equitable  
19 claims.

20  
21          **19.    Disclosure of Non-Party Interested Entities or Persons**

22          The parties have filed their certifications of interested entities or persons.

23  
24          **20.    Professional Conduct**

25          The parties certify that all attorneys of record for the parties have reviewed the Guidelines  
26 for Professional Conduct for the Northern District of California.

